Amendment to the Claims

1. (currently amended) A computer-aided method of improving operational efficiency of equipment, the method comprising the steps of:

calculating an availability value for the equipment;

calculating a performance value for the equipment;

calculating a quality erosion value for the equipment;

defining an overall equipment effectiveness value for the equipment as the product of the availability value, the performance value, and the quality erosion value;

calculating a performance loss value for the equipment;

calculating a quality loss value for the equipment;

displaying the overall equipment effectiveness value, the performance loss value, and the quality loss value in a graphical format on a display [[.]]; and

improving operational efficiency by having an operator view the graphical format on the display, the display being positioned alongside the operator, and having the operator take corrective action based on the graphical format on the display to improve the overall equipment effectiveness value.

2. (canceled)

3. (canceled)

4. (canceled)

5. (canceled)

6. (canceled)

7. (canceled)

8. (currently amended) The computer-aided method of claim [[7]] 1, further comprising the step of having the corrective action be reducing the duration of a break.

9. (canceled)

10. (currently amended) The computer-aided method of claim [[7]] 1, further comprising the step of having the corrective action be reducing delays due to shift transitions.

11. (currently amended) The computer-aided method of claim [[7]] 1, further comprising the step of rewarding an operator who has used the view of the graphical format on the display to improve the overall equipment effectiveness value of equipment operated by the operator.

12. (cancelled)

13. (canceled)

14. (canceled)

15. (currently amended) A system for monitoring the operational efficiency of a plurality of equipment, the system comprising:

a general purpose computer, the general purpose computer being loaded with a software module containing instructions for calculating one or more values related to overall equipment effectiveness for at least one equipment of the plurality of equipment,

a plurality of terminals in networked communication with the general purpose computer, each terminal of the plurality of terminals being positioned at an operator location for each equipment of the plurality of equipment, each terminal having an output device for displaying at least the overall equipment effectiveness value, the performance loss value, and the quality loss value in a graphical format ~~display~~[[.]], the graphical format ~~display~~ being a pie chart.

16. (canceled)

17. (canceled)

18. (canceled)

19. (canceled)

20. (canceled)

21. (previously presented) A computer-aided method of improving operational efficiency of equipment, the method comprising the steps of:

calculating an availability value for the equipment;

calculating a performance value for the equipment;

calculating a quality erosion value for the equipment;

defining an overall equipment effectiveness value for the equipment as the product of the availability value, the performance value, and the quality erosion value;

calculating a performance loss value for the equipment;

calculating a quality loss value for the equipment;

displaying the overall equipment effectiveness value, the performance loss value, and the quality loss value as a plurality of wedges in a pie chart; and

improving operational efficiency by having an operator view the pie chart and having the operator take corrective action that will increase the size of the wedge corresponding to the overall equipment effectiveness value or decrease the size of at least one of the wedges corresponding to values other than the overall equipment effectiveness value.